

Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

Col. Philip Ruhlman greets Lt. Gen. Mubarak, Commander of Qatar Emiri Air Force Aug. 5 as he arrives at Shaw.

*"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to **commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil**.*

*Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in **The Shaw Spirit**.*

Q All of the trash cans round Memorial Lake are overflowing and have been that way for several weeks. I've approached security forces to ask who is responsible for emptying the trash cans. There's also trash around the trash almost everywhere you look at the Youth Softball Fields area. People are throwing cans down and not being responsible. It's not a pleasant scene.

A Thank you for your concern regarding the appearance of Memorial Lake and the youth softball fields. Our civil engineers have studied these areas and did not find any overflowing trash cans. They are emptied by refuse contractors Mondays-Friday. If you see anyone littering please remind them it is the responsibility of every base resident to keep our base clean.

Good, bad, leader



**By Senior Master Sgt. Robert A. Hipple
20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
1st Sergeant**

Throughout my career, I've heard a lot about leadership traits. These traits are usually listed without much explanation like integrity, competence, energy, honesty and set the example. The everyday meaning of these traits can be obscured when merely listed. I've always found it more beneficial to put these traits into layman's terms, so here is my personal checklist to anyone who might need a clearer explanation:

- ♦ Good leaders value their people's experiences. Bad leaders fear them.
- ♦ Good leaders listen to their people, comprehend what they are saying, and act using their advice. Bad leaders hear, do not listen, and do whatever they want anyway.
- ♦ Good leaders make mistakes, admit it, and take responsibility. Bad leaders are afraid of making mistakes, deny responsibility, and shift the blame.
- ♦ Good leaders won't abandon their troops when in need. Bad leaders can't be found when their troops need them.
- ♦ Good leaders have no egos. Bad leaders think only of themselves and their shoulders.
- ♦ Good leaders can adjust plans for good ideas. Bad leaders are totally inflexible.
- ♦ Good leaders backup their words with results. Bad leaders talk a good game, but never do anything.
- ♦ Good leaders reward current performance. Bad leaders reward prior records.
- ♦ Good leaders mentor their troops for promotion. Bad leaders hide promotion from their troops,



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

so bad leaders can stay important in their own minds.

- ♦ Good leaders will sit you down and give it to you straight. Bad leaders don't have the stomach and will leave you in the dark.
 - ♦ Good leaders don't let their people down. Bad leaders roll over on their troops under pressure.
 - ♦ Good leaders are human. Bad leaders are "holier than thou."
 - ♦ Good leaders applaud accomplishments by others. Bad leaders are jealous.
 - ♦ Good leaders promote and enforce righteousness. Bad leaders allow discrimination and harassment, and sometimes even participate.
 - ♦ Good leaders take on any responsibility no matter how difficult. Bad leaders hide and duck from anything extra.
 - ♦ Good leaders keep their troops informed. Bad leaders keep everything secret.
 - ♦ Good leaders are approachable. Bad leaders will snub you.
 - ♦ Good leaders want the spotlight on their troops. Bad leaders want the spotlight on themselves.
 - ♦ Good leaders will give you a hundred reasons why it can be done. Bad leaders will give you a hundred reasons why it cannot.
 - ♦ Good leaders have troops who will gladly do anything for them. Bad leaders have troops who begrudgingly follow orders.
- It seems like a long list of leadership traits, but it's actually the short list of things I look for in a leader and try to live up to. I thought I'd spell it out for anyone who might want to do a self check, which is necessary for every leader. Understanding: that is the leadership trait of humility.

The Shaw Spirit

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The main threat may be your reflection



Courtesy photo

Military members at a U.S. Army traffic checkpoint in SW Asia wear protective gear to reduce the threat of potential danger.

By Lt. Col. Dan Swayne
20th Fighter Wing Safety chief

Where is the threat? Combat leaders ask themselves this question continuously. Determining what constitutes the greatest threat to our combat resources is the first step to finding ways to minimize its impact. Fighter pilots do this in daily training missions as well as combat missions. Our forces on the ground in Southwest Asia are continuously evolving their tactics, techniques and procedures to confront the changing threats they face. We do the same thing with force protection conditions at Shaw and all of us have seen the impact of evaluating potential threats at our nation's airports.

The threat isn't always obvious. Sometimes the weather forecasted at the base where we intend to land is a bigger threat than any enemy force. And sometimes the dangers of drinking

and driving, not using a seatbelt or not wearing a helmet while riding a motorcycle are more threatening to our life than any act of terror. Now is one of those times.

This past winter, I spent three months in the area of responsibility. There were several occasions when my duty took me outside the relatively safe perimeter of the base. I wouldn't have considered going into harm's way without the protection of my armored vest and Kevlar helmet.

What's striking to me is none of us would want to travel the roadways of the AOR without the proper gear, yet we think nothing of going for a spin around the local area on a motorcycle without a helmet or driving our car after drinking alcohol. Where's the logic here?

Each and every one of us must take responsibility for ourselves and our comrades. Policy, instruction and guid-

ance is available at every level to give you the tools you need to make the safe choice, but ultimately it is a personal choice we must make as responsible adults. We've already lost two members of Team Shaw this year. If we don't make a positive attitude correction now, we'll be going to more memorial services before this summer ends. We have the ability to stem this tide.

Of the thousands of Airmen serving in Iraq and Afghanistan this year, two have been killed in combat. On the other hand, as of this writing, 60 Airmen have died worldwide in **preventable** mishaps.

You are more likely to receive a serious injury or die this summer if you ignore safety precautions when riding, driving or participating in recreational activities than you are likely to die on duty. That is the real threat. If you need to see its face, look in the mirror.

C R O S S W O R D

Alphabet soup

ACROSS

1. AFSC 11 A/B/E/F/G/H/K/R/S/T
4. AFSC 12 A/B/E/F/G/K/R/S/T
10. Oklahoma town
11. Due
12. AFSC 91C
14. Terror
15. A type of military pay allowance
16. Dined
18. AFSC 1C1X1, in short
20. Swain
21. Org. concerned with protecting civil rights
23. AFSC 15W
26. First African-American male to win Wimbledon
28. Chubby
29. Federal org. for environment
30. 23rd letter of Greek alphabet
32. Mock
34. AFSC 88P
36. Tribunal
37. Sea eagles
38. CBS show Judging ____
39. 7th letter of Greek alphabet
41. Former Vietnamese leader Ho ____ Minh
44. Toiling
47. AFSC 8P000
50. Fox competitor
51. ____ Paulo, Brazil
52. Can. province
53. Automotive org.
54. Term of familiar address, especial-

ly for males

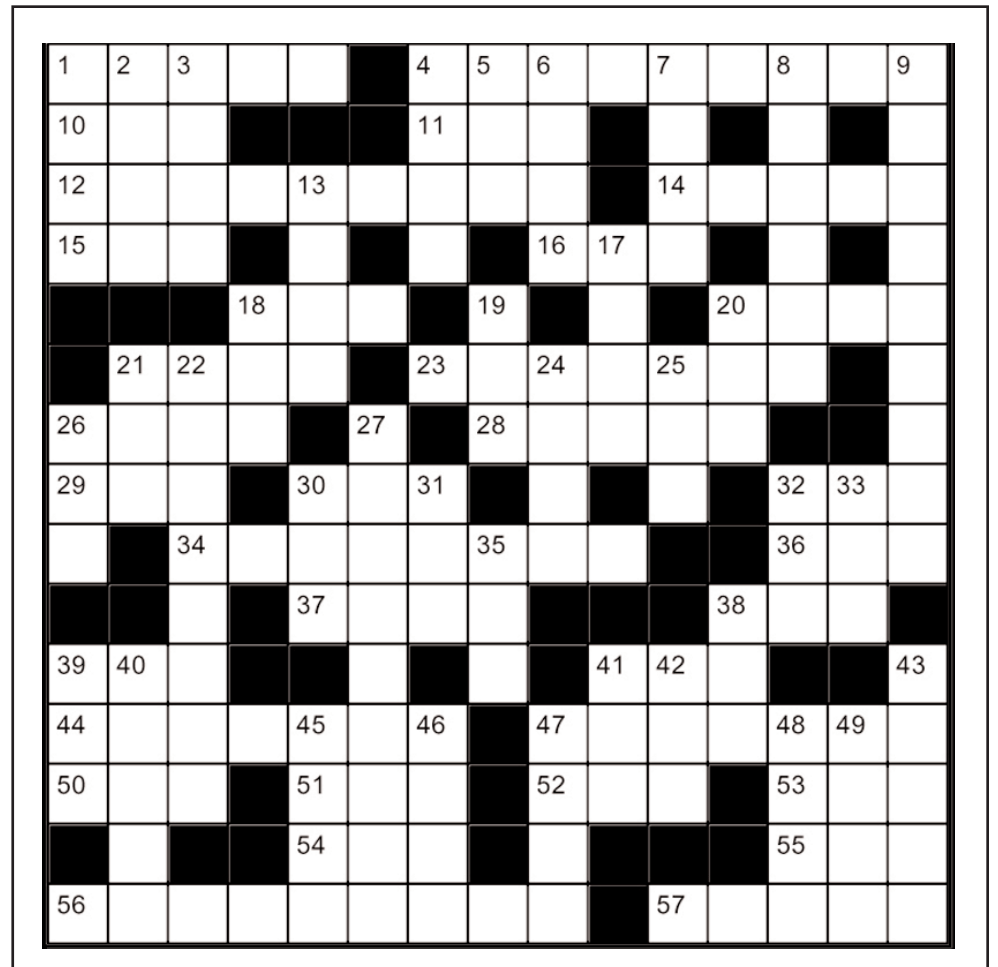
55. In launch tests, site of activity, in brief
56. AFSC 61S
57. AFSC 2F0X1

DOWN

1. Warsaw ____
2. Fox show American ____
3. Spiritual leader Dahli ____
4. Fibroid
5. Wonder
6. Designer Wang
7. Yawn
8. Berlin Airlift commander
9. AFSC 8R000
13. AK island occupied by Japan in WWII
17. Dorothy's friend
18. Pub order
19. Military pay statement
20. Gamble
21. Cleopatra killer
22. AFSC 52R
24. Air Force guide for CBRN warfare, in short
25. Mil. cockpit essential for 1

ACROSS

26. Air Force deployment set, in short
27. AFSC 13A
30. The Pit and the Pendulum author
31. Charged particle
32. AFSC 13B or 1A4X1, briefly
33. Earning



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman

35. Co. head
38. Demeanor
39. Flightless bird
40. Agenda
41. Dupe
42. Shack

43. Clothe
45. Book identifier
46. Mongolian desert
47. Paint
48. Atoll
49. British hereditary title